THE NEW
INDIAN EXPRESS

BENGALURU • THURSDAY • NOVEMBER 24, 2022 • ₹9.00 • PAGES 24 • LATE CITY EDITION

Nicola Sturgeon, SNP leader and first minister of Scotland | AP

READ SHARE FOLLOW
newindianexpress.com
facebook.com/thenewindianexpress twitter.com/newindianexpress
instagram.com/newindianexpress

SCOTTISH GOVT LOSES COURT BATTLE FOR REFERENDUM

Britain's Supreme Court has ruled that Scotland's government can't hold an independence referendum without UK's consent

U.K. PARLIAMENT REFUSES TO GIVE CONSENT

The Scottish National Party (SNP) wanted a second referendum on October 19, 2023 but the UK Parliament refused to grant a formal consent. Supreme Court president Lord Reed said the laws that created the devolved Scottish Parliament in 1999 meant it does not have power over areas of the constitution including the union between Scotland and England | P14

RISHI SUNAK WELCOMES 'DEFINITIVE RULING'

- Welcoming the verdict, UK Prime Minister Rishi Sunak termed it a "clear and definitive ruling from the Supreme Court"
- SNP leader Nicola Sturgeon said her party respects the court's decision but added that the next general election in 2024 will be a 'de facto referendum' where people will express their will

2014

THE SCOTS REJECTED THE FIRST REFERENDUM, HELD WITH THE U.K.'S APPROVAL, BY 55-45%

CHENNAI • MADURAI • VIJAYAWADA • BENGALURU • KOCHI • HYDERABAD • VISAKHAPATNAM • COIMBATORE • KOZHIKODE • THIRUVANANTHAPURAM • BELAGAVI • BHUBANESWAR • SHIVAMOGGA • MANGALURU • TIRUPATI • TIRUCHY • TIRUNELVELI • SAMBALPUR • HUBBALLI • DHARMAPURI • KOTTAYAM • KANNUR • VILLUPURAM • KOLLAM • TADEPALLIGUDEM • NAGAPATTINAM • THRISSUR • KALABURAGI

EFFECTIVE TODAY

Price of KMF milk and curd goes up by ₹2

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
@ Bengaluru

STARTING Thursday, pay more for milk and curd as the Karnataka Milk Federation (KMF) Board on Wednesday decided to increase the price of the two dairy products by Rs 2. With this, the price of Nandini toned milk will go up to Rs 39 per litre and curd to Rs 47 per litre.

KMF had placed the demand before the government to increase the prices by Rs 3 sometime ago. But Chief Minister Basavaraj Bommai had to intervene as the move attracted intense criticism. He later held a meeting with KMF officials and asked them not to go for a steep hike and to ensure that it does not cause losses to farmers or become a burden to consumers. KMF had then sought one day to decide.

KMF stated that they are only the second state in the country to pay the highest compensation to farmers.

For every Re 1 collected from consumers, 79 paise is paid to farmers. On an average, Rs 28 crore is handed out to farmers every day.

In the last two years, the cost of maintaining cattle has gone up. "Keeping the welfare of farmers in mind, it has become necessary to increase the price of milk. The Karnataka milk price is lower compared to other states and also cheaper than other brands," it said.

The last time the price of milk and curd was increased was in February 2020.

Product	Existing rate (a litre/kg)	Revised rate (a litre/kg)
Toned milk	₹ 37	₹39
Homogenised toned milk	₹38	₹40
Special Milk	₹43	₹45
Homogenised standard milk	₹44	₹46
Santrupthi milk	₹50	₹52
Double toned milk	₹36	₹38
Curd per kilo	₹45	₹47

Japan's Ritsu Doan (R) scores his team's first goal against Germany at the Khalifa International Stadium on Wednesday | AFP

LAND OF RISING SONS

Silence speaks louder

Germany's players covered their mouths for their team photo before the match in an apparent rebuke of FIFA's clampdown on plans to wear armbands to protest discrimination in Qatar | AP

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE

JAPAN'S players did not know what to do apart from run in all directions. Some of them were going right, some were going straight, others left. All of them, though, had their arms outstretched. You didn't need to know the scoreline. Japan had upset World Cup royalty, Germany. The four-time champions failed to kill the match and the Asian powerhouse won 2-1. Ilkay Gundogan had converted a first-half penalty and it was smooth sailing until Japan, who had the reached the last 16 in 2018, went for the jugular in the second half. They rung in the changes and drove at the heart of Germany's creaking midfield till it crumbled like a house of cards. The defeat leaves Germany needing a result against Spain on Sunday. Or, it could be an early exit.

MORE ON: P19

Appointment of new EC Arun Goel under SC lens

Constitution bench says it wants to check if there was any 'hanky-panky' in the process; govt directed to submit files today

SHRUTI KAKKAR @New Delhi

TAKING note of the alacrity with which the government granted VRS to bureaucrat Arun Goel and appointed him as election commissioner, a five-judge Constitution bench of the Supreme Court on Wednesday ordered the Centre to submit all the original files related to the appointment.

The five-judge bench headed by Justice K M Joseph said it wants to know if there was any "hanky-panky" because Goel's appointment happened while it was hearing a plea seeking a collegium-like system for the Election Commission of India. The Centre should not have any problem submitting the relevant files if everything was done as per procedure, the bench observed. The court gave the Centre time till Thursday to produce the files.

The direction came after senior advocate Prashant Bhushan told the bench that Goel, a 1985 batch IAS officer of Punjab cadre and a secretary-level official, was given VRS on Friday and appointed as EC on Saturday to enable him to start working from Monday.

"The government appointed someone in a single day and no one knows what process was followed or what safeguards were taken," Bhushan said.

Arun Goel

Asking Attorney General R Venkataramani if the government has any hesitation in presenting the file, the bench observed that the appointment was inappropriate as the matter was being heard by the Constitution bench.

When the AG objected to Goel's appointment being dragged into a case where the court is considering a larger issue, Justice Joseph said, "We would like to know... because you are claiming that everything is going on smoothly. We don't think it's a matter where we should be withholding information. This is not matter related to appointment of military person."

The bench also observed that the Chief Election Commissioner should be a strong-willed person who will not hesitate to act even against the prime minister, if need be.

"Suppose there is some allegation against the prime minister and the CEC has to act. But the CEC is weak-kneed. He does not act. Is it not a complete breakdown of the system? The CEC is supposed to be insulated from political influence and should be independent," the bench remarked.

Venkataramani told the bench that there had to be a trigger point for the top court to interfere in such matters. The AG also told the bench that the appointments were on the basis on seniority and there was no separate appointment procedure for CEC.

'NEED A CEC WHO CAN ACT EVEN AGAINST THE PM'

The Constitution bench said the person appointed as the Chief Election Commissioner must be independent and should be willing to act even against the prime minister in the event of serious allegations

State running out of govt land for schools: Ashoka

ASHWINI M SRIPAD @Bengaluru

KARNATAKA seems to be running out of government land. Raising an alert, Revenue Minister R Ashoka warned that in the next 10-12 years, it might be difficult to find land to construct government schools, hospitals and other infrastructure. He had earlier raised this issue with elected representatives, but is writing to them again to identify government properties in their constituencies.

Ashoka is traveling across the state to take part in "Jilladhikari Nade Halli Kade", where he stays in a village and listens to woes of residents. During such outings, he learnt that there is a shortage of land for schools, colleges, anganwadis, graveyards, playgrounds, health centres and many such facilities. He had earlier written to all MLAs and MPs to identify government land for building essential infrastructure. "But none of them replied. I am going to write again," he told *TNIE*.

"The price of land is shooting up, and the government cannot buy properties at such high prices. This is the time to save land for the future. Either the land has been encroached by individuals or organisations or it is being used for different purposes. We seek the support of legislators as they know their constituencies better," he added.

P7

M'luru blast accused epitomises threat to state from highly radicalised youth

BALA CHAUHAN @Bengaluru

THE November 19 blast in an autorickshaw in Mangaluru, in which key accused Mohammed Shariq (24) and autorickshaw driver Purushottam were injured, is an eye-opener on the emerging incidents of highly radicalised youth indulging in terrorist activities either alone or in fragmented and small networks to evade detection.

This was Shariq's third attempt at a terror-related activity since November 2020, in which he and an engineering student, Mazz Muneer Ahmed (21), were involved in the terror graffiti case in Mangaluru. Shariq was wanted in the Shivamogga blast and burning of the national flag case in September this year, in which Ahmed and another engineering graduate Syed Yasin (21), with alleged affiliation to the banned terrorist outfit Islamic State of Iraq & Syria (ISIS), were arrested.

Investigation had revealed that they were mentored by Shariq, who went underground after he was released on bail in the graffiti case. The fact that the pressure cooker with the improvised explosive device (IED) that Shariq was carrying went off before its time proves it was an amateur attempt at bomb-making with batteries, wires, nuts and bolts and explosive chemicals that are easily available in the market.

P6

NIA probing S'mogga blast

Shivamogga: The NIA has taken up the probe against three accused in the case of trial blast and burning of the national flag on the banks of Tunga river in Shivamogga.

Case to be soon handed to NIA

Mangaluru: Home Minister Araga Jnanendra said the Mangaluru blast case will be handed over to the NIA in a day or two for a comprehensive probe.

CM seeks united intel sharing

Hassan: Chief Minister Basavaraj Bommai said he will write to his counterparts in southern states for concerted and united intelligence sharing to to combat terror activities.

EXPRESS READ

Voter data theft case: Police grill 45 officials

Bengaluru: Multiple police teams on Wednesday questioned nearly 45 revenue officials of the Bruhat Bengaluru Mahanagara Palike in connection with the case of voter data theft and revision of voter list. More officials will be questioned shortly to find out whether they are involved in the fraud, a police officer said. | P6

Deputy EC to visit BBMP head office today

Bengaluru: The deputy Election Commissioner (DyEC), will visit the Bruhat Bengaluru Mahanagara Palike head office on Thursday to seek details of the voter data theft case and revision of the draft voters' list. The Chief Election Commission has directed BBMP officials to keep all information ready, and cooperate with the DyEC. | P6

CRIME FILES

Shraddha's 2-yr-old SOS to police revealed Aaftab design

UJWAL JALALI @New Delhi

THE horrific case of murder and dismemberment of a woman in Delhi by her live-in partner took a new turn on Wednesday after the copy of a letter she wrote to the Maharashtra police exactly two years ago revealing his threats to "kill and cut her into pieces" surfaced.

"Aaftab Amin Poonawala has been abusing me and beating me up. Today he tried to kill me by suffocating me and he scared and blackmails me that he will kill me cut me up in pieces and throw me away," wrote Shraddha Walker in a hand-written letter dated November 23, 2020.

Shraddha was allegedly strangled on May 18 this year, her body chopped into multiple pieces and disposed of. Shraddha's letter is now a crucial piece of evidence to establish Aaftab was a repeat offender and had a history of domestic violence.

While the Palghar police acknowledged receipt of her letter, they claimed she had a subsequently written another letter withdrawing the complaint. "We went to their house twice. They told us that they have nothing against each other and had decided to withdraw the complaint as well. Therefore, after 26 days, we disposed of the complaint," a police official said.

Her letter revealed that Aaftab's parents were aware of their son beating her up. "His parents are aware that he beats me and that he tried to kill me. They also know about us living together and they visit on weekends," Shraddha's letter read.

Shraddha Walkar

Fadnavis orders probe into letter

Maharashtra Deputy Chief Minister Devendra Fadnavis on Wednesday ordered a probe after this letter surfaced. "Had they (police) taken prompt action, Shraddha would have been alive today," he said

Drug addict out of rehab kills four of his family in Delhi

UJWAL JALALI @New Delhi

A drug addict just out of rehab allegedly went on a killing spree, stabbing four members of his family in southwest Delhi's Palam area, the police said on Wednesday.

The mass murder took place late on Tuesday night. "A person made a PCR call around 10.30 pm claiming he was hearing sounds of quarrel in his neighbourhood after which the police immediately rushed to the location," Deputy Police Commissioner (Southwest) Manoj C said.

Accused Keshav (25) was caught by neighbours and the police while he was trying to bolt. He hacked his 75-year-old grandmother Diwano Devi, parents Dinesh and Darshan, and sister Urvashi with a sharp-edged weapon.

One of the family members, while speaking to this newspaper, said the accused spent more than 30 months at a rehabilitation centre and had recently come out of it. "He was a drug addict and had frequent fights with his family. He used to nag them for money," said Keshav's cousin Kuldeep Saini, who stayed just a floor below.

On Tuesday night, he heard a noisy quarrel and climbed the stairs to check. "I heard screams of my cousin Urvashi after which I rushed upstairs and started banging the door to know her welfare but none opened," Kuldeep said. Keshav responded from inside asking him to buzz off as it was his family matter. "There was complete silence for 15 mins but in the meantime I had called the police. When the police arrived, Keshav jumped from the second floor to escape but we caught him," Kuldeep said.

(Clockwise from top left) Accused Keshav, his mother, grandma, father and sister | PTI

Cousin threatened

When police took Keshav into custody, he threatened Kuldeep of dire consequences. "Once I'm out of jail, you will be next."

Minor raped, parents allege accused tried to convert her

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE @Mysuru

AN alleged case of a rape of a minor girl and bid to convert her has come to light at a village in Nagamangala taluk of Mandya district. It is alleged that a 24-year-old man raped a 14-year-old girl and asked her to convert to Islam if she wants to marry him.

The girl's father, in a complaint filed with the Nagamangala police, alleged that the accused, Yonus Pasha, befriended his physically-challenged minor daughter studying in eighth grade. Pasha had given her a cellphone and reached it through one of his relatives, who used to travel with the girl in the school van, the complaint added.

The girl later started talking to the accused over phone and had also sent some sleazy videos of hers to him. He had later threatened the girl that he would put the videos on social media if she refuses to have sex with him, the complaint stated. "He had handed her some sleeping pills asking her to make other members of the family sleep so that he could come to the house. After she followed his instructions and let him into the house, he raped her. He also told her that if she wished to marry him, she had to convert," the complaint stated.

The accused has been to police custody, said Mandya SP Yathish N. He has been booked under the Protection of Children from Sexual Offences Act (Pocso), IPC Sections 376(3), 354 (D), 450, 506, Information technology Act and Section 5 of the Karnataka Protection of Rights to Freedom of Religion Ordinance 2022.

43-year jail for raping minor

Mysuru: A POCSO court has sentenced a man to 43 years rigorous imprisonment and fined him Rs 50,000 for raping a 10-year-old girl. The incident took place on October 13. The court also directed the Legal Service Authority to pay Rs 7 lakh to the victim. P7